

Please insert at page 5, before line 4, the following heading:

-- DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS--

Please insert at page 5, before line 13, the following heading:

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION--

Please replace the heading at page 10, line 1, the following new heading:

--WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:--

Delete the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 16.

In the claims:

Please amend claims 1-9 as follows:

--1. A light-emitting diode, comprising

- a semiconductor layer structure including a substrate and at least one light-generating layer formed on said substrate and one transparent current-spreading layer deposited on said light-generating layer,

- a first electrical contact layer on the back of said substrate, and

- a second electrical contact layer disposed on said current-spreading layer,

characterized in that

- the top surface of said current-spreading layer has vertical structuring to improve the decoupling of light, and

-said second electrical contact layer has a lateral structure by means of which substantially uniform coupling of the electrical current into said current-spreading layer can be achieved.

2. The light-emitting diode as described in claim 1, characterized in that

- said second electrical contact layer is a central, in particular circular or square contact surface and, arranged about said central contact surface, a contact structure that is rotationally symmetrical with respect to the center point of said central contact surface and is composed of relatively narrow contact webs and/or contact points.

3. The light-emitting diode as described in claim 2, characterized in that
- the rotational symmetry is a symmetry represented by a whole number and in particular matches the rotational symmetry of the light-emitting diode.

4. The light-emitting diode as described in claim 1,
characterized in that said second electrical contact layer is realized as continuous.

5. The light-emitting diode as described in claim 1,
characterized in that
- said second electrical contact layer is discontinuous and is interconnected by a layer of transparent, light-conducting material.

6. The light-emitting diode as described in claim 1,
characterized in that said second electrical contact layer is arranged on structured and/or unstructured portions of said current-spreading layer.

7. The light-emitting diode as described in claim 1,
characterized in that
- the vertical structuring is in the form of preferably regularly arranged n-sided ($n \geq 3$) pyramids, frusta of pyramids, cones or frusta of cones.

8. A method for fabricating a light-emitting diode as described in claim 1,
characterized in that
- a light-generating layer and thereafter a relatively thick and transparent current-spreading layer are deposited on a substrate and the back of said substrate is provided with a first electrical contact layer,
- vertical structuring to improve the decoupling of light is produced in the surface of said current-spreading layer,

- a second electrical contact layer having the desired lateral structure is deposited on the structured top surface of said current-spreading layer.

9. The method for fabricating a light-emitting diode as described in claim 1, characterized in that

- a light-generating layer and thereafter a relatively thick and transparent current-spreading layer are deposited on a substrate and the back of said substrate is provided with a first electrical contact layer,

- a second electrical contact layer having the desired lateral structure is deposited on the top surface of said current-spreading layer, and

- vertical structuring to improve the decoupling of light is produced in the top surface of said current-spreading layer outside the areas of said second electrical contact layer. --

In the abstract:

Replace the abstract with the following version.

-- Structured-surface light-emitting diode having a light generating layer and a relatively thick, transparent current-spreading layer, vertical structuring of the top surface of the current-spreading layer serves to improve the decoupling of light, while at the same time, a second electrical contact layer with a distributed, lateral structure operates to achieve substantially uniform coupling of electrical current into the current-spreading layer. --